

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

July

YEAR

1998

SIGNATURE

Amy McCullough

In Charge of HSA

DATE

August 11, 1998

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2
NOAA / National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway, Room 7230
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).

☒ No flood stages were reached in this HSA for the month above.

Although no flood stages were reached across the San Angelo HSA in July, a heavy rainfall event on the 4th through the 5th of the month brought the Pecan Bayou to near bankfull stage over Brown and Mills Counties. The rest of the month saw only widely scattered to scattered thunderstorm activity, with most areas receiving rainfall well below normal for July. The drought continues over West Central Texas, with major agricultural losses to much of the area. The city of San Angelo has set tighter water restrictions, with lawn watering reduced to twice a week and an increase in water costs to residents. San Angelo has begun pumping 1/3 of its daily water usage from O. H. Ivie Reservoir to make up for the low levels of Twin Buttes and O. C. Fisher Reservoirs.

The heaviest rainfall in July came at the beginning of the month when remnants from a tropical depression moved inland from the Gulf of Mexico and became nearly stationary over Brown County on the morning of the 4th. Rainfall amounts of up to 6 inches occurred in just a few hours across mainly southern Brown County, causing flooding in and around the city of Brownwood. Several streets were closed and a few homes were flooded. Mills County also received 4 to 5 inches on the morning of the fourth. The runoff from rain across Brown and Mills Counties caused the Pecan Bayou to rise to near bankfull at Mullin. The river crested at just over 19 feet during the afternoon of the fourth (bankfull 20 feet). Heavy rain spread into northern Brown County and Lake Brownwood, causing water to flow over the spillway at the lake. However, the rise was not significant enough to cause further flooding in the city of Brownwood. The heavy rainfall tapered off during the afternoon of the fourth as the tropical disturbance moved slowly northward. Heavy rainfall redeveloped near the center of the disturbance on the morning of the 5th over Throckmorton and Haskell Counties. Rainfall again totaled near 6 inches for the morning of the 5th, with a few roads closed in western Throckmorton County. This rainfall resulted in only a minor rise of a few feet on the Clear Fork of the Brazos at Fort Griffin during the evening of the 5th. The rainfall again tapered off during the afternoon as the disturbance moved out of the HSA.

For the month of July, San Angelo received only 0.46 inches of rainfall, which is 0.60 inch below normal. San Angelo remains below normal for the year with only 6.17 inches. This is 4.67 inches below normal. Abilene received slightly more rainfall, with 1.31 inches in July, 0.78 inches below normal. Abilene also remains below normal for the year, with 9.39 inches of rainfall, 3.98 inches below normal. Along with the lack of rain has come the heat. San Angelo and Abilene both recorded the third warmest July on record, with average temperatures of 87.4 and 87.6 degrees, respectively.

Area reservoirs remain below conservation levels as the lack of significant rainfall continues. Soil moisture is low and the threat for flooding remains low across West Central Texas.